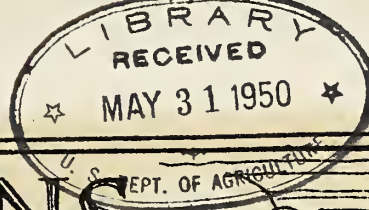


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



LIBRARY
Prairie States
Forestry Project



Vol. 3, No. 7

August - 1938

THE CHIEF VISITS THE PROJECT

Chief Silcox and Mr. Tinker visited Lincoln last week, and at this writing are making a trip through the three northern States accompanied by Mr. Roberts and Mr. Olson. It is the Chief's first visit to the Project. Rumors drifting in from the field indicate that he is no exception to the invariable rule that people viewing our shelterbelts for the first time experience about the same emotions as those induced by a first glimpse of the Grand Canyon or the Carlsbad Caverns.

I hope that he will find some better way of expressing his sentiments than the usual "I am astonished -" and something tells me that he will. He is the most facile talker that I have heard in many a long day. At a dinner given in his honor in Lincoln and attended by some 40 of the leading lights of the State he talked for 40 minutes, and whether it was what he said or the way he said it I don't know, but he had the most completely spellbound audience - including this scribe - that Lincoln has produced since the days of her own William Jennings Bryan.

The following morning the Lincoln Star, whose managing editor attended the banquet, said editorially:

"He spoke before fifty representative citizens. What those citizens heard was one of the most inspiring addresses upon national resources, particularly upon the relationship of trees and of timber to a nation's welfare. It was the appeal of a man who believes that a nation's progress is determined largely by the foresight shown in conserving soil, water, and forests.

"...Ferd Silcox believes in more trees on the prairies to break the force of wind which burns and destroys the crops. He believes that in a country so marvelously rich in land the timber resources can be increased a hundred-fold and that as a result people will live in better homes, constructed out of better material. He talks so much common sense that those who heard him were deeply grateful for an evening during which they gained more information concerning the forest resources of this country than they ever had before."

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

WHEN THE P.R. STRING IS OUT - PULL IT!

P.R. opportunities are continually bombarding us from all sides. The big problem is to recognize such opportunities "when the string is out." Many of them are masked and hidden and of no apparent importance. Some of these apparently unimportant leads will develop into really outstanding P.R. accomplishments if the "string is pulled" at the right time and in the right way. A pulled P.R. string that brings no results usually doesn't hurt anybody, so it is good business to pull every string that you recognize as such. If there is something worth while on the end of only one out of five it is worth while.

The following incident illustrates the "pulling of a P.R. string" when it presented itself and the accomplishments that resulted.

Brookings County has been developing an interest in securing a concentration area for shelterbelt planting for some time. This movement has been nursed along largely by the County Forestation Committee which is composed of seven of the leading farmers of the county. This committee on several occasions has contacted us, in short they have "been wooing" for a concentration area. They have secured around 150 applications in the county to date. That can be easily recognized as a "P.R. string" that needed pulling, but it did not present itself so one could get hold of it. If such a "string" dangles around long enough, sooner or later it's going to get close enough to grab. In this case here is what happened.

One Saturday five farm leaders from Brookings County attended a state-wide A.C.P. meeting at Mitchell. One of these five men was a member of the County Forestation Committee.

After the Mitchell A.C.P. meeting "Curly" Lund cornered this Brookings County delegation. His approach was that he understood Brookings County was interested in getting the Project operating in their territory. Naturally he received an affirmative reply. He asked them if they had seen any of the shelterbelts and they had not. He then invited them to take a one hour trip with him to view some of the belts and they accepted.

The following Monday morning E. G. Sanderson, the Forestry Committee-man of the above delegation, called at the State Office and appeared full of excitement and enthusiasm. He said he and the delegation had seen some of our belts at Mitchell and thought they were wonderful. He wanted photos and material for a news story for the papers. He also said the "lukewarm" members of the delegation certainly were "sold solid" after seeing what had been accomplished under severe drought conditions. He also said, "If our Brookings County people could see those shelterbelts it would be the biggest boost for farm forestry the county ever had."

There is your P.R. string right before your eyes and you can bet we grabbed it. This is the way it was done.

I said "Sanderson, what's to prevent us (get the us) from getting up a caravan of Brookings County farmers and making a day's trip through the Mitchell area." He thought it was too far and too expensive for most of them. I asked him if there was no expense to the farmers, could a sizeable group be induced to go? He said they sure would, but it would have to be before harvest

started, which was only a week away. I also asked if he thought they would ride in trucks on hard seats the same as we transport our labor. He said, "Our farmers are harder than any W.P.A. labor I have ever seen!" I said, "Our trucks are off on Saturdays, and if you'll get your gang together for Saturday we'll haul you and bring you back."

Arrangements were made for the Forestation Committee to secure two or three leaders from as many townships in the county as possible. Everybody was to bring his own lunch and our organization would furnish the coffee and trimmings.

Eighty Brookings County leaders were loaded Saturday morning at Brookings on our trucks. Open trucks were used with comfortable chairs borrowed from the Mitchell Corn Palace. Understand, these eighty men were picked from a select list of leaders in the county. Every township in the county was represented. Walt Parmeter, the local County Agent, was active in these arrangements and made the trip.

At noon the gang ate their lunch in the Casey shelterbelt. Our Mitchell men hauled picnic tables from one of the parks to the Casey belt and set them up under the 24-foot cottonwoods in the plantation. We furnished the coffee and the ice water. After lunch a short meeting was held in the belt, which consisted of an explanation of our work by the State Director, a few remarks (and they were darned good) by Ed Casey, a short talk by Brookings County Agent Parmeter, and a talk by H. C. Halvorson, Chairman of the Brookings County Forestation Committee.

We loaded up again and made a tour through the Mitchell area, passing between 60 and 70 belts of all ages. We placed a good man in each truck to explain the work as we passed. Stops were made at a few plantations so they could get out into them.

The reaction to this trip was splendid. In one truck six solid miles of east and west belt without a break was arranged for in one township. This was done by the farmers themselves without our solicitation. The Forestation Committee of Brookings County placed petition applications for shelterbelts in the hands of all who made the trip with a request that they get busy in their townships when they got home. We claim that's getting results from pulling a "P.R. string" that popped up out of nowhere.

We also expect results from the publicity that will come from this trip. A photographer from the Mitchell Republic was on hand and took photos. He was also given information and material for his story. We played up the Brookings County Forestation Committee cooperating with the Forest Service -- or we cooperating with them.

As the result of this publicity we expect leaders from other counties to approach us saying they had noticed where the Brookings County gang was shown the shelterbelt plantings and expressing their wish that their own folks could see it. Our answer will be "Why not?"

- A. L. Ford, S.Dak.

MORE TREES FOR KANSAS

It so happens that in our economic and social affairs, some of the things that are of greatest importance, the value of which stretches far into the future, are the things over which we find it difficult to create any especial interest or any great enthusiasm. This is true of tree planting in this great prairie country.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that if Kansas is to get back again the enormous tree growth that has been destroyed during the past decade, it will be up to the various governmental agencies to take the lead.

The people of the present generation, as individuals, simply will not plant trees. They recognize the value of trees, and they freely admit that more trees should be planted and cultivated, but they still do not plant trees. Go out through the country and note the tree situation, and you will find that a grove or lane of young trees planted by the landowner himself is almost a rarity.

Kansas is still wheat-minded. We still think in terms of hundreds of acres of golden grain, tractors and combines. Why plant trees when more money is to be made out of more wheat?

Trees along the highways have all but disappeared. Only a few scraggly, half-dead trees, bearing their naked branches toward the heavens, remain to remind one of the well-shaded highways that this country had less than a generation ago.

But those lanes of trees and generous groves were planted by tree-minded men. Men who came to this prairie State direct from well-wooded countries. To them, the one sad thing about this "land of promise" was the lack of trees. To them, it was a calamity that their future home was being designated in the Eastern press as a "treeless plain."

And, feeling that way about it, they set about to remedy the situation. They planted trees. And, when those plantings were destroyed by drouth and small rodents, they planted still more trees. And the high plains became a thing of beauty. Trees did the trick. And nothing but trees could have worked that transformation. But that was before men became wheat-minded. That was in the days before we tried to flood the earth with golden grain. Men had time for lesser things in those days. They could afford to take time out to plant trees.

So now government is stepping in to correct this defect, and forestry men are preaching the gospel of trees. According to a recent report sent out by the government, "In 1938 there will be twice as many trees planted in shelterbelt projects as last year." And this report states that farmers are giving the projects most hearty support. Now the farmers are willing to furnish the land, the fencing materials and to attend to the cultivation, whereas, when the government first began this type of work, it was necessary for the Department of Forestry to furnish all these materials.

So it would seem that trees are destined to come to the high prairies of Kansas, even out in semi-arid regions where there has always been a dearth

of shade, but never a lack of burning sun. And they are coming to Kansas prairies by the "government spending" route. It appears to be the only system that will meet the need. And that's something to remember when we hear the usual line of criticism concerning the government's spending activities.

- Kingman (Kans.) Journal

PROBLEMS OF THE PLAINS FORESTER

While in Carrington, North Dakota several days ago meeting the county officials and more or less feeling them out in regard to what degree of cooperation we could expect from them, I was introduced to Mr. Indergaard, the County Auditor.

Having been warned by the County Agent that Mr. Indergaard was somewhat "sour" on the Forest Service I was prepared for a rather stormy interview and was ready to try pouring a little oil on the troubled waters.

We were no sooner introduced than he started telling me that he didn't expect to get what he wanted this year, and that he had spent two years trying to educate the Forest Service in North Dakota that they should plant their shelterbelts east and west as well as north and south.

"In another two years," he said, "I'll have them planting shelterbelts on the south side of section and quarter lines, as well as the north and west."

Mr. Indergaard's pet plan is to plant a shelterbelt six miles long along the south side of a certain tier of sections, seven rods back from the center of a well-maintained gravel road.

He contends that our hot drying winds in the summer come from the south, though I tried pointing out to him that many of our fences have large sand drifts behind them on the south and east, from summer winds.

"Another thing," Mr. Indergaard said, "just visualize how a shelterbelt stretching six miles along the highway will look, and how much easier it will be for our children to drive to school in the winter, if the shelterbelt will be there to stop the snow from drifting on to the highway."

Now looking at it from our side, if we should plant this shelterbelt along the south side of the section, we would give about the same amount of protection to cultivated land although it wouldn't be the land of the man who owned the shelterbelt. However, such plantings would give approximately the same benefit to the county as a whole.

When I left, Mr. Indergaard asked me for a number of application blanks for distribution to farmers, on the theory, I suppose, that shelterbelts planted anywhere are better than none at all.

- Raymond C. Nermoe, N.Dak.

WE'LL GET TO THAT IN TIME

Honey locust is the best tree to plant in high dry places says Russell Reitz, of the shelterbelt authority. The honey locust is a honey of a tree if it would stay dehorned.

- Wichita (Kans.) Eagle

"BY THEIR FRUITS SHALL YE KNOW THEM"

This spring in the Cando sub-district quite a number of farmers were unable to buy fence material and cancelled their applications as a consequence. To make up for these cancellations some quick negotiations were performed with care taken to contact farmers with high reputations as good farmers. To make way for five miles of shelterbelts, 30 acres of wheat were plowed up by them and we are glad to say we have five miles of excellent cooperation.

In this connection the sub-district foreman has noted a direct correlation between the condition of farm buildings and the amount of cultivation shelterbelts receive. Good buildings and farmstead -- good cooperation and vice versa.

I strongly suggest that strangers use this index in accepting applications. Unless there is much evidence to the contrary such as reputation in the community if farm improvements are run down, the application may be safely cancelled.

- Leroy C. Baskin, N.Dak.

WHY WIVES BECOME GRAY

The work plan prescribed rest for John Rogers, because it was Sunday, but torrents of rain brought visions of submarine duties at the nursery; so accompanied by Mrs. Rogers he drove out to where the nursery site had submerged. John's heart bled for the seedlings as he saw them go down for the third time. Over at the south end of that block of fall-seeded green ash a narrow neck of mud was seen to be preventing the water from making its exit to the highway, so without benefit of shovel, John began digging the offending mud with his bare hands intent on the construction of a miniature drainage canal.

The human hand loads mud very well because of its similarity in shape to a clam shell type steam shovel - but to release the mud John soon developed a peculiar rapid backhand movement which landed the sticky mass on the berm with a plop. Finally construction was completed and as John watched the rushing water with satisfaction he washed his hands in the torrent - alas the telltale white band around one finger on his left hand spoke of the ring that was gone. In fact now that John calmly thought the matter over, he could remember the scraping sensation when the mud had sucked the ring from his finger.

Patiently gob by gob the mud was rehandled - then Mrs. Rogers took up a position and the gathering gloom of evening descended to the increased plut, plut of the mud. At last all of the mud had been rehandled but still the ring was unfound.

To all of Mrs. Rogers' words of comfort and cheer, John answered in monosyllables - the ring had been his omen of good luck through the years and its loss was heavy upon him. Even the evening paper, after a cheering meal, failed to raise his spirits, and though the evening was young, John began to unlace his shoes. Mrs. Rogers watched with sympathetic alarm - then a transformation took place - she found the lost ring - found it on John's right hand!

- W. G. Baxter, Kans.

ACCOUNTING EXPERIMENTS GET UNDER WAY

Thanks to the cooperation of State Director Russell Reitz, the Division of Fiscal Control has taken over the accounting records of the Kansas State Office for the Fiscal Year 1939. Accounting records for Kansas will be maintained on the National bookkeeping machine throughout the year, to determine the practicability of centralization of accounting records in the Regional Office and also to determine the adaptability of State accounts to machine records.

Mr. John D. Hall, formerly Senior Clerk in the Kansas State Office, has been transferred to the Division of Fiscal Control and will have direct charge of the study. The study is being conducted at the request of the Washington Office and a report of the result obtained will be furnished the Washington Office for consideration on a Service-wide scale.

The Division of Fiscal Control has also been selected by the Washington Office to conduct a study during the Fiscal Year 1939 in connection with graphic presentation of cost data.

Mr. Bennett, Deputy Fiscal Agent, will have charge of the study for the Project. At the conclusion of the study, Mr. Bennett will prepare report for submission to the Washington Office, since the results are to be used throughout the Service as a basis for developing the graphic presentation of the data for use by administrative officers and for statistical purposes.

- M. R. Scott, R.O.

ALL RIGHT, BOB, YOUR TURN

In connection with the annual audit of the Nebraska State Office by Fiscal Control, Mr. Bennett, accompanied by Sr. Administrative Assistant Smith, made an inspection of the Neligh Office and District. Mr. Bennett appeared well pleased with the appearance and condition of both the warehouse and office. What he thinks of what he found in the office will develop later. He also had an opportunity to inspect a number of shelterbelts, ranging from the famous(?) Howard belt down to the recent 1938 plantings.

Aside from the strictly official work, Mr. Bennett found time to indulge in a few recreational activities. Those suitable for reporting include:

1. Nine holes of golf on the beautiful Neligh course.
2. Participation in the slaughter of 19 jack rabbits.
3. Bowled four lines on the brand-new Neligh alleys.
4. One unfinished game of billiards.
5. No drawing poker.

If further details are desired, Mr. Bennett might be asked about his tee shot on the fifth; the 10-yard shot at a cottontail; the score of his first bowling game.

- R. W. Smith, Nebr.

A FORESTER'S IMPRESSION OF THE PRAIRIE STATES FORESTRY PROJECT

During the days when the Shelterbelt Project was in its infancy, it was rather surprising to me, then an undergraduate in a Forestry school, to hear some of my professors and apparently seasoned foresters express grave doubts concerning the possibility of growing windbreaks on hitherto treeless plains, and also to hear some of them speak of the project as a day dream. It was quite difficult for me to account for this skeptical attitude. I had seen fine windbreaks grow on the dry plains of Colorado and could not understand why similar windbreaks would not survive through the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, provided they were taken care of.

Three years went by -- the name of the Shelterbelt Project was changed to Prairie States Forestry Project and the original set-up was modified, but there was little change in the attitude of the skeptic. In recent months, however, reports of the unusually successful growth and survival of the shelterbelt plantings began to reach the ears even of those who were most reluctant to accept the Project as a practical reality. It is true that the attitude of some became less questioning, but it will take the proof of years to remove all doubt from their minds. Or perhaps a personal tour of inspection of some of the existing plantings would do the trick much quicker.

Recently on my way from Syracuse, New York, to Colorado I drove through Nebraska and made a side trip into the Neligh District to see some of the plantings I had read about. Through the courtesy of Mr. Harry Eaton I spent a day riding about the Neligh District and what I saw surpassed all that I had read. I was truly amazed at the wonderful growth of the Cottonwoods and Chinese Elms which had attained a height of more than fifteen feet in the short duration of three years. I was also most favorably impressed by the fine survival and healthy appearance of the more recent plantings. But what impressed me most of all was the enthusiasm with which a farmer spoke to me of his young windbreaks, and also the pride in the voices of some WPA workers when they told me of the trees they had personally planted. In fairness, one must admit that they do have something to be proud of. The excellent appearance of the young windbreaks speaks more eloquently than any words could of a planting job well done and of the fine care bestowed upon the trees by the farmers. If such an attitude is representative of most of the participants, the Project is destined to go a long way, and a land made more livable through the medium of trees will stand as a lasting monument to the work of the Plains Foresters.

- Larry Solin, Syracuse University

(Mr. Solin's trip through the Project was in connection with the collection of material for a Master's degree thesis.)

HAVE WE DISCOVERED A NEW VILLAIN?

Recently "Slim" Engstrom and myself set out to have a look at the conifer shading experiments set out by Briggs. We will leave the results of the experiment for later reports as it was difficult to tell what the effects were. We found this beyond question, however: Galvanized steel plates used as shade had provided a "playhouse" for Mr. Ground Squirrel, his friends and sweethearts. During playful digging at the roots of the tree, Mr. and Mrs. Gopher stumbled on the fact that fresh cedar rootlets were a delicacy of sorts. We found about 30 percent of the *Juniperus virginiana* had been dug out, succulent rootlets eaten and many of the trees girdled.

This gives rise to another poser. The rabbit and mouse are generally credited with much of our rodent damage. But does or does not the common gopher do some of the damage to the young trees when he first emerges from hibernation? Damage referred to is on those trees which are cut off at ground line. This is a frequent occurrence on year old trees that failed to make much growth the first year.

Will a rabbit cut a tree off at ground line? Or does he exhibit a distaste for getting his nose in the dirt?

Bears, when emerging from hibernation, have perverted appetites and are known to eat quantities of spruce and fir needles as a tonic. Are gophers subject to similar perversions of diet?

My query is based entirely on two observations: (1) Many trees cut off in belts; (2) Many gopher tracks, few rabbit tracks. Who can prove Mr. Gopher is guilty or absolve him from blame?

(Texas or Oklahoma men please note. What the deuce is this "sand rat" you are always talking about?)

- L. A. Williams, N.Dak.

DID YOU KNOW -

That the proper stance for reading PLAINS FORESTER is with your boots on the desk?

That a recent picture magazine made the startling statement that North Dakota has no trees? Tsk! Tsk! Sech ignorance.

That plantings thrifty with weeds in the Winters of '37 and '38 suffered less from rabbit damage than clean plantings?

That conifer seedlings protected by weeds (intentionally left) have better survival than those in cultivated plantings?

That the snow is all gone from the north side of our buildings? (However, this news is not sanctioned by the Chamber of Commerce.)

That North Dakota Upland birds and ducks are contemptuous of the marksmanship of the R.O. itinerants?

That a pair of deuces don't always stand up? (That is, in Prairie Pinochle.)

That Paul Bunyan is planning a come-back in North Dakota in the year 1950?

That you still have your feet on the desk?

That this is terrible?

That this is the END?

- Fritz Gill, N.Dak.

EASTERN RED CEDAR
(*Juniperus Virginiana* L.)
WESTERN RED CEDAR
(*Juniperus Scopulorum* Sarg.)

(This is the fifth of a series of articles by Mr. Engstrom on the principal tree species used by this Project.)

The majority of people who have had experience with conifers in this region have come to regard the cedar as the most satisfactory evergreen for Plains conditions. It seldom grows beyond 35 or 40 feet in height, but its comparative ease of establishment, its long life and persistence under the most severe conditions, its greater protective features, and its value for wildlife outweigh any points which may be brought up in favor of other conifers.

The eastern red cedar is found native along river bottom lands, occasionally creeping out along draws onto rocky and limestone uplands throughout the eastern and central portions of the shelterbelt States, except in the extreme north and south. In the three northern States there is a transition zone west of the central parts of the States where both eastern and western red cedar may be found. West of this zone the western red cedar is found exclusively. This latter species is commonly known as silver cedar in the nursery trade because of the distinctive silver-green color of some strains. South from Nebraska the eastern range of the western red cedar follows the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Therefore, it is not found as a native in Kansas or Oklahoma but is listed by Sargeant's Manual of Trees as occurring in the foothills of western Texas.

Thus far the eastern red cedar has been more widely used in Plains planting than the western species. It is credited with being the faster growing of the two, and for windbreak purposes it is more apt to develop into a barrier of even height and density. It has a further advantage in being easier to propagate in nurseries.

On the other hand the western red cedar is frequently preferred over the eastern species by commercial nurserymen for ornamental purposes on account of its more varied habit of growth. Weeping, columnar, and conical forms in different sizes and shades of green are listed in the nursery trade of this species. These ornamental strains are propagated from cuttings or by grafting rather than from seed in order to make them develop true to form. Plant patents have been issued for some of the more striking varieties.

When grown as ornamentals or as hedges in more or less full sunlight, both species of cedar can be trained into specimens of various shapes by shearing or clipping the ends of the branches. Handled in this manner the foliage thickens or increases in density and has a fresh vigorous appearance.

Provided stock of as nearly local origin as can possibly be obtained is planted, cedars can generally be made to grow and thrive on all soil classes from sand to black heavy gumbo. On the blowy sandy soils some difficulty is experienced in getting it established on account of sand blasting. On the whole, however, none of our accepted shelterbelt species of either conifers or broadleaves exceeds the cedar in its adaptability to a wide range of soils.

The fruit of the cedar is berrylike, ripening in the fall and remaining persistent on the tree into late winter. The eastern species requires one year to mature its fruit while the western red cedar requires two years. The fruit is a favorite food of many birds. The seeds are thus widely distributed and since the species is highly tolerant of shade during early life, it has come in as an understory on many hardwood plantations. As the tree grows older it becomes less tolerant and if it remains overtopped it soon grows into a scraggly unsightly specimen. However, if grown in full sunlight it maintains a dense growth from the ground up. For that reason a one- or two-row windbreak of cedar is usually as effective a barrier as a much wider windbreak of assorted hardwood species, although it may not have as wide a protective zone due to lack of height.

Cedar grows slowly in comparison with many of our hardwood species. After the first year or so it will on very favorable sites grow upward to 18" a year in height. Generally an average of a foot or less in height growth will hold true for most locations where it is planted with little increase after the tree reaches 35 or 40 feet in height. However, the tree enjoys a long life, individual native specimens being recorded as being in good condition at 150 or more years of age.

The cedar is the alternate host of the "cedar apple rust" and for that reason should not be grown within a mile or so of apple orchards. Since this disease is generally confined to the more humid areas, it is of importance only in the eastern sections of the shelterbelt States. The western species is considered less susceptible to the rust than the eastern. Cedar is also subject to red spider infestation in some locations but other than those two afflictions, it is relatively immune to disease, insect or rodent attack. It is also uncommon to find cedar trees showing severe hail injury or breakage from wind or sleet storms. In this region where these factors cause great damage to tree growth, comparative immunity to this type of injury is a valuable characteristic.

On the Plains the cedar's chief utility is for posts. Only the Osage orange exceeds it in durability for this purpose and, therefore, cedar posts command a high price where available. Further east cedar is also widely used in the manufacture of high-grade lead pencils and in the cedar chest industry.

- Harold E. Engstrom, R.O.

YES, THE FIRST FELLOW HAS NO CHANCE

Nebraska Shelterbelt Assistant, proudly showing the now famous Eve Hunter shelterbelt to a visiting SBA from another State: "Now, how's that for a 1937 planting?"

Visiting SBA (yawning): "Well, about like most of our 1938's."

Nebraska SBA, showing the John Cook 1938 planting: "And I suppose you claim to have better 38's than that?"

Visiting SBA: "Why man, our 39's are knee-high already!"

- Carl A. Taylor, Nebr.

WE GO IN FOR RECREATION

Did you know that the Forest Service owns and operates a forest for recreational use in the broad plains of North Dakota? Yes, and it has real trees -- not merely a shelterbelt -- but a real forest.

The Towner Nursery is government-owned and has in connection with it 160 acres that have been turned over to recreational use. Eighty acres of this is in mixed hardwood timber bordering the Souris River which has its origin and its ending in Canada. The remaining 80 acres is taken over by peat bog, hay meadow, roads, river, and the nurseryman's dwelling. During the past three winters the local relief clients have been given employment by the Forest Service in cleaning up the dead trees and trimming up the lower branches of the trees in the wooded section. Last winter we were able to secure \$2000 of recreational money, with which we built a suspension-type foot bridge across the river, and opened up for use about 60 acres which had been inaccessible. Nine fireplaces were built, and 40 picnic tables, which Region Nine had previously constructed, were painted and placed on the grounds. We placed four toilets, obtained through the WPA sanitation project, on the area and built a council fire and a children's swing.

Region Nine had made plans for development of the recreational area, but we found ourselves without sufficient money to carry out all of their plans. We have made some changes, but are trying to carry out their original plans as far as possible. This winter we plan to build a swimming pool. The local merchants have agreed to furnish the material needed for the pool, and the Federated Women's Club of North Dakota has expressed a desire to cooperate with us in development work. They are expected to furnish enough funds to build a shelter, more fireplaces, place drinking water on the area, and build more children's playground equipment.

You would be surprised to see the number of people using the area as a picnic ground. A visitor's register placed conveniently at the end of the bridge acquired over 2000 signatures in $2\frac{1}{2}$ months and we are confident that no more than a third bother to sign. Last Sunday, with nothing especially going on, 42 cars were counted at one time in the parking lot; throughout the day more than three times that number had come and gone. There was an estimated 400 who stopped to either get out and walk around or to eat a picnic lunch. It is a rare day that there is not someone at the forest to eat a picnic lunch. The use of the area has exceeded all expectations and more facilities will be required to handle the crowds in order to prevent over-use of the developed portion.

The Towner Nursery was originally purchased by Region Nine for producing stock to plant the sand hill section then being negotiated for in the Souris Purchase Unit intended for administration by the Forest Service. However, acquisition funds have not been available. The nursery farm of 480 acres had been placed outside the purchase unit on better soil and was not a part of the unit. Since the nursery (20 acres) had been planted in 1935 and since Region Nine no longer had use for the stock, they wanted to turn the stock over to our Project for shelterbelt plantings. Last fall they turned over the entire nursery to our Project; 480 acres of land, the nursery stock, a new warehouse, pumphouse, and material for a new office building, besides the old farm building which had been on the farm when purchased. We have

completed the office building and increased the nursery to 39 acres. With development, approximately 150 acres could be used for production of nursery stock.

We have built a standard Forest Service bulletin board and placed it in the timber where all the visitors will see it. This bulletin board is used to tell about the work of our Project. It invites everyone to visit the nursery and to ask about our work. The nurseryman or one of his assistants is around the nursery or the grounds every week-end to answer questions and to direct people over the nursery. There are about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of shelterbelts planted on the nursery (1936-1937-1938). There is a good set of government buildings and 20 acres of nursery under overhead irrigation system. In the nursery we are growing about five acres of conifer stock, and the rest in hardwoods; enough to make an interesting show.

The results obtained in good P.R. are more than we can know. We are being advertised in the best way possible -- through furnishing unselfish service to the public.

- O. M. Patten, N.Dak.

YES SIR, IT PAYS

Webster states that cooperation means the associated or collective action of persons or organizations for their common benefit. Nearly all activities of the Prairie States Forestry Project are cooperative, either with individuals or organizations both civic and public.

The Kinsley District of the Prairie States Forestry Project has been able to render a helpful service to the local Farm Bureaus, and indirectly to the farmers, this summer. This was accomplished by the cooperation of the Forest Service with the Farm Bureau, to the extent of using Forest Service trucks to transport grasshopper poison to central points within the District for distribution.

We all feel that the small amount of additional expense and effort which was required to render this service has been well worth while. The appreciation shown by the County Agents and County Commissioners is second only to that shown by the farmers themselves, and it is already apparent that we will be more than repaid for this service in our negotiations work by assistance and cooperation from all those concerned.

- Ralph Johnston, Kans.

YEA, LORD!

The following excerpt is taken from the LION'S TAIL TWISTER, Stafford, Kansas, Lion's Club Bulletin:

A little school girl's essay read as follows:

"When we go camping we must keep the place neat, we must be very careful to put out the fire. This is God's country. Don't burn it up and make it look like hell."

The little girl was right, especially at this time of year when we all like to go camping.

- Marjorie Cadman, Kans.

REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF VOUCHERS

During the past fiscal year the Kansas Unit was able to reduce the number of vouchers approximately ten percent under Fiscal Year 1937. We vouchered 3,010 accounts in Fiscal Year 1937 excluding the carry-over accounts. In 1938 we vouchered 2,719 accounts. This in general is in keeping with the Fiscal Agent's desire and it seems entirely possible to further reduce this number during this coming year and still maintain the expenditure of a similar budget.

Plans are now being made to accomplish further reduction. We have inaugurated on each District in connection with the Work Plan procedure a system of monthly staff conferences which are held just prior to the submission of Forms 26-a. The Junior Clerk-Stenographer in the District and all of the subdistrict men meet at the call of the District Officer and together they go over their present position with regard to the work of the District and make up the work plan for the coming month. This enables a thorough discussion of changes in regulations, necessary plans, etc., and appears to be a very desirable conference from everyone's point of view. In this way the Form 26-a actually represents the work plan for the District for each member of the District staff contributes to the plan as a whole and assignments to the various members of the District staff can be better represented on the Forms 110-PSFP and otherwise.

It is thought that at the time of the District Staff Conference the needs for purchases of supplies could be discussed and the Junior Clerk-Stenographer could list these supplies with a view to consolidating purchases. The procedure for purchasing has not been entirely worked out but it is now believed that before purchases are made the list will first be submitted to the State Office immediately after the Staff Conference with a view to consolidating purchases for as many items as possible for all Districts and nurseries. The requisitions would be returned to the District and nursery with notations made thereon, i.e., "Purchased by S. O." or "Purchased locally." Upon return of this requisition to the field the Junior Clerk-Stenographer would proceed accordingly. Purchases in this plan would be accomplished approximately once each month, probably about the fifth. This should permit a high degree of vouchering of such accounts during the current month and unvouchered obligations should be at a minimum at the time of the preparation of Forms 36-PSFP and 44-PSFP.

Purchases other than under the above plan would be limited to contract purchases of gasoline, tire repairs, grease jobs, and emergency truck repairs.

Field men commenting on this plan have felt that it would work and we in the State Office have thought so too. We have not had enough experience with it to say definitely that it will, and it may need revision. It seems to have possibilities. It will require careful planning of needs for supplies but with the experience gained to date it would seem reasonable that needs for supplies could be easily determined for 30 days in advance if a real effort was made to do so.

- T. Russell Reitz, Kans.

NOT TO BE TAKEN WITH A GRAIN OF SALT

"The office force writes and the field men plant - but never the twain shall meet" - apologies to Kipling if I did not get this just right, but the twain did meet at the picnic in Hutchinson on June 18. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Woodward took honors in the distance event, arriving on time after a drive of 169 miles from Ashland.

The eventful day started with a trip to the Carey salt mines which had been arranged by the Hutchinson force. With a clang a full cage of 14 people at a time was dropped 645 feet beneath the Hutchinson nursery in the Carey salt mines. The rat-rat-rat of the air line drills, pausing only long enough to tamp in the dynamite - then the electric train is loaded with broken salt. Glistening crystals of salt everywhere - ceiling, walls, and floor - 300 feet thick - four tons of salt is loaded into each car, then hoisted to the surface where it is crushed, graded, and eventually shipped everywhere. The 42 who were so courteously conducted through the salt mine by the Carey Salt Company will probably remember this feature of the picnic longest.

John Rogers' Lieutenant Pete proudly conducted the 13 cars through the Hutchinson nursery. Frank Sampson cranked his movie - then to Carey Park where the only discordant sound was the groans of the picnic tables. Soft ball, horseshoes, golf, swimming, shopping and a whole lot of gossip filled the afternoon hours until time for the dance in the evening. How easily those fellows from the Districts got acquainted with the stenographers from Manhattan! - but that is what makes a picnic a success.

The 58 who attended the picnic eventually found their way home tired but glad that they had made the effort to get acquainted with the rest of the family. Wives in the field and stenographers in the office became acquainted and ghost names became realities. No speeches of welcome - just fried chicken from Kinsley, iced tea from Hutchinson, and the picnic was a success.

- W. G. Baxter, Kans.

(A good many years ago this scribe went down in that mine, but for some obscure reason we seem not to have had the gentling effect upon the hoist man possessed by that galaxy of youth and beauty which constitutes the feminine contingent of the Kansas organization. We rode a salt bucket down, and the hoist man must have been in a hurry to get it back down there. At the end of the first hundred feet our feet were only six inches from the bottom of the bucket, but by the time we caught up with it at the bottom of the shaft the loaders had it half filled with salt. We vowed to take a parachute along next time. - Ed.)

CLASSIFIED (BUT WHERE?) AD

For sale. One Forest Service uniform, 16 oz. serge, practically new, played poker in this suit only a few times. Buyer need not bother looking for money left in pockets.

P.S. This is a man's size (nurseryman's) suit; Junior Foresters and Shelterbelt Assistants need not apply. However, they could use the vest for an overcoat.

- Samuel A. Byars, Okla.

NOW I'LL TELL ONE

Mr. Nick Klosen, cooperator down in Lincoln County, says the grasshoppers are so thick that he doesn't dare turn his 200 turkeys loose in the shelterbelt. He says that the turkeys become exhausted and fall an easy prey to the 'hoppers. It isn't that the turkeys cannot dispose of a grasshopper; it's just that they cannot make up their minds. They start after one and another hops up which they start after, only to be distracted by another and another and so on. The turkey chases the various 'hoppers until he either goes crazy or falls in exhaustion and is immediately pounced upon by the 'hoppers and devoured. Nick didn't produce any of the turkey skeletons, but we're ready to believe almost anything about those 'hoppers.

- B. B. Davis, Nebr.

(The author enclosed a drawing illustrating the above situation which would make any turkey lover weep with anguish. Sorry we have no facilities for reproducing it. - Ed.)

OUR FAME SPREADS FAR

Visitor in Norway Writes Regarding Shelterbelt Here -- Decided proof that farmers in this vicinity are interested in the shelterbelt project recently approved for Brookings county is shown by a letter received from Norway by W. N. Parmeter, county agent.

The letter, written by A. H. Hexem, Hendricks, Minn., now visiting at Haltdalen, Sor Trondelag, Norway, reads:

"We are now visiting in Norway and noticed in The Register an article on field shelterbelt of trees and would like to submit by application for same.

Enclosed find clipping with legal description of land where trees are to be planted. I would be pleased to hear from you in regard to this matter."

- Brookings (S.Dak.) Register

THOSE BAD OKLAHOMA BANDITS!

We have heard considerable of bats in the belfry and ants in the pants, but leave it to Milton (that's Mr. Olson, Senior Clerk) to provide lots of local excitement Saturday morning, July 16, by chasing a burglar down five flights of stairs and around two city blocks clad only in pajama trunks. About six o'clock of said morning Mr. Olson and his roommates were suddenly awakened by a burglar in their apartment in the Herriman Hotel.

Mr. Olson and one of his buddies took up immediate pursuit clad as was, and finally with the aid of a well-aimed brick they caught up with the burglar, who threatened them with a drawn knife. The third roommate remained behind in the apartment to call the cops, who arrived on the scene about the time Milton was recovering the \$4.00 stolen from his wallet. His buddy was sitting on the sidewalk picking tacks from his bare feet.

The police were somewhat perplexed as to whether they should arrest the burglar or the pajama-clad street prowlers. They finally took the burglar, however, and Milton's \$4.00 as evidence--he hopes some day to recover the latter.

- Anonymous--We wouldn't know why.